

As we all know, EARL comes to Congress with big shoes to fill. He's following in the footsteps of our former colleague, RON WYDEN, now the junior Senator from Oregon. For 15 years, RON devoted himself to the people of Portland. His service and effectiveness will certainly be missed in the people's House.

But I think the people of the Third District of Oregon have chosen a remarkable replacement in EARL BLUMENAUER—for they have chosen a man who has spent his entire life building his community, and bringing Portland's common sense to Portland's problems.

EARL had a passion for public policy at a very young age, testifying before Congress while he was still a college student. And after finishing school and working briefly in education, EARL became the youngest person ever elected to the Oregon Legislature, at 23 years old.

After three terms in his State's legislature, two as county commissioner, and three more on Portland's City Council, EARL has shown that his dedication to local solutions could have a national impact.

He's already recognized as a leader on urban environment and transportation policies. He's been a champion of reasonable, thoughtful land use; aggressive recycling; and the kind of light rail that has worked so well throughout the Portland region.

No wonder EARL won the support of prominent Republicans as well as Democrats in his election bid.

So I'm delighted to welcome him to Congress—to serve the people of Portland, and all Americans. I expect that his vision and values will contribute a great deal to our debates, and to the Nation's problems.

□ 1030

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the minority leader, and I am very pleased myself to have the honor of welcoming the gentleman from Oregon, EARL BLUMENAUER, as the newest Member of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Oregon delegation.

I have to say, in all honesty, I cannot think of a more highly qualified person to represent Oregon as a new Member in this body. He has a lengthy history of public service: He served in the Oregon Legislature, the Oregon Community College Board; he was a Multnomah County Commissioner at the same time I was a Lane County Commissioner, a tremendous experience and training to become a Member of Congress, to bring that local orientation with him; and he was on the Portland City Council.

Throughout his 24 years of elected office, perhaps the thing he is best known for is he is a worker, a hard worker. In each position that he has held of public trust he has not only done the job that has been asked of him, he has taken on a leadership role,

rolled up his sleeves and helped develop creative and workable solutions to problems at every level of government. He has not risen through the ranks of government by resting on his laurels on his past record; he is constantly working, learning, serving, and doing better.

I know he will continue that commitment here in Congress, and I look forward to having his skill, knowledge, and energy to call upon and utilize as we work to do the people's business for the citizens of Oregon and our Nation.

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I, too, am extraordinarily excited and happy that we are being joined by a great new Member from Oregon.

I think I would just like to say that to me the gentleman from Oregon, EARL BLUMENAUER, has the perfect background for being a Member of Congress, because he has been an activist. He has been an activist in our community and he has been a public servant. And it seems to me there is not a part of Oregon that does not in some way have that gentleman's fingerprints upon it. Whether it is the livability of our cities, whether it is recycling or transportation, he has been there and he has done the hard work.

He has shaped, I think, the present of the most livable city in this country, Portland, OR, and has shaped the future of that city, and I know that he will work to shape the future for not just Oregon but for the United States as he works with us in this prestigious body, and I welcome him to this delegation and to this House, the people's House.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their kind words. I am honored to be able to join my colleagues and looking forward to working with them in advancing the tradition of the House.

I am greatly appreciative of the help of Representative DEFAZIO, Representative FURSE, Senator HATFIELD, and Senator WYDEN, and others from the Oregon delegation in terms of making the transaction work for me, and I am looking forward to working with all my colleagues to protect the environment and leave this country a little better for our children.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHAMBLISS). There will be 10 1-minutes on each side.

#### THE PRESIDENT ON WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, here is a quote from Tuesday's Washington Times editorial on welfare reform:

Knowing the salience that welfare reform has with the electorate, the President desperately wants to be seen as leading the reform effort that he has actually been sabotaging.

The Times is right. Bill Clinton campaigned on a promise to, remember, end welfare as we know it. Of course he vetoed welfare reform twice. Bill Clinton has also dragged his feet on granting waivers to the States that would allow them to fix the welfare mess in those States. The White House has denied waivers to Illinois and Massachusetts and Wyoming. Those States waited up to 20 months to be notified of their denial. Just ridiculous.

The States should not have to crawl to Washington on bended knee to get permission to do the right thing for their own people.

When it comes to reforming welfare, despite talk about the end of the era of big government, Bill Clinton apparently still believes that big government knows best.

#### SENIORS, BEWARE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN HEALTH CARE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership budget is being negotiated now between the two houses and we may have a motion to go to conference within the next day or so. I just wanted to point out once again that this budget essentially cuts Medicare and Medicaid in order to provide tax breaks for the wealthiest of Americans.

It is the same old thing that we had last year in 1995. Once again Medicare and Medicaid are on the chopping block and seniors are going to be given less choices and they will be pushed into managed care, which means they will not have the choice of doctors or in many cases even the choice of hospitals. And once again they are going to have to pay more, because the balanced billing provisions, the protections that exist right now that do not allow doctors to charge more or significantly more than 15 percent to their Medicare patients will be out the window.

If you stay in the traditional fee-for-service system where you have your own choice of doctor or your own choice of hospital, you could be charged extra, really unlimited amounts, under the provisions that the Republican leadership have placed into this budget.

Also, what they are doing with the medical savings accounts is they are making it so that seniors who opt for a medical savings account, which is a catastrophic policy essentially, will